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surfaces of a similar hose storage device engage said ridges when the similar hose storage device is stacked on top of said hose storage device.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment adds new claim 24 in order to make it clear that the upwardly facing supporting surfaces recited in claim 1 are not to be construed as being limited to the ridges disclosed in the preferred embodiment. For example, it is contemplated that the frame side walls in the disclosed embodiments could be devoid of the disclosed ridges and the upwardly facing supporting surfaces could be provided by the upper portions of the frame side walls. Further to the provisional election made in the Petition to Make Special dated February 23, 1998, it is submitted that new claim 24 is generic to both embodiments and thus falls within the Applicants' provisional election of the claims reading on the second embodiment.

This preliminary amendment also amends the specification to claim priority to two earlier filed provisional applications.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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